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TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1954



W. J. BIRCHALL,

M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. T. WOODS,

M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A.

Tel.
Chester
24117

TLRVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Westminster Buildings,
Newgate Street,
Chester.

With the compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT
For the year 1954

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Tarvin Rural District for the year 1954.

The National Vital Statistics show a slight decline in the Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates. Locally there is a decline in the Birth and Infant Mortality Rates, and a slight increase in the Death Rate.

Whooping Cough (162 cases) Measles (62) Pneumonia (48) and Scarlet Fever (10) were the chief infectious Diseases notified. Once again no case of Diphtheria was reported.

From the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector it will be seen that new legislation in relation to housing, slaughterhouses and milk have increased the work of the Health Department staff.

In matters of housing much progress has been made and more remains to be done, especially in the provision of bungalows for aged persons, to improve standards throughout the district.

Adequate inspection of meat carcasses slaughtered in the district for food occupies much time of the Inspectors at irregular hours, and I am pleased to report that it is carried out with a high degree of efficiency.

I wish to thank Mr. Woods, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the staff of the Health Department for their invaluable help in compiling this Report and their great assistance and loyal co-operation throughout the year.

Included at the end of the Report, is my Annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services operating in the South West Cheshire Division, of which Tarvin Rural District forms part.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Councillor	Charles Moss (Chairman).
"	J. Johnson (Vice-Chairman, to September).
"	G. W. Penk (Vice-Chairman, from November).
"	L. N. Jones.
"	T. B. Stevenson.
"	H. E. Mottershead.
"	F. Newport.
"	P. Matthews.
"	H. Flect.
"	J. G. Harding.
"	Rev. E. H. Barnes.
"	H. G. Lloyd.
"	H. Lewis.

Ex-Officio:

"	J. C. Wolley Dod, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).
"	R. N. Salmon (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B. (Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
(London), D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Rodent Officer and Petroleum Officer :

G. T. Woods, M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute; Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection; Certificate of the R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works; Examination of Institution of Sanitary Engineers; Home Office C.D. Panel of Examiners.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

G. P. Walpole, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

R. Mason, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection; Home Office Civil Defence Instructor's Special Certificate.

Clerk: G. P. Davies.

Clerk-Typist: Miss Jean Rock.

Rodent Operative: E. H. Blackburn to October.
H. Williamson from November.

MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, and of Harold Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Assay Office, are utilised for bacteriological and chemical examinations respectively.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of infectious disease are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge. Cases of sickness and accident are removed to the Chester Royal Infirmary or the General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulance of the Cheshire County Council supplemented by the Chester City Ambulances as an Agency Service.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There are District Nurses engaged in all the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purpose of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

- (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics**, including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin, Kelsall and Malpas—Infant Welfare.

Hoole—Ante and Post Natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopaedic, Dental and Speech Therapy.

Chester—Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

- (e) **Hospitals.**

The General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller Cottage Hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz., Tarporley and Whitchurch.

Larger Hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool; for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital, etc.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area — 62,593 acres.

Population, estimated by Registrar General, Mid-year, 1954	14,750
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	4,405
Number of houses built (i.e. completed in 1954):	
Private Enterprise	20
Council Houses	52
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1954	£82,115
Product of Id. Rate at 1st April, 1954	£320

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954

Births.

LIVE BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	96	89	185
Illegitimate	5	4	9
	<hr/> 101	<hr/> 93	<hr/> 194

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	13.15
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Births	1.07
Corrected Birth Rate	14.07

STILL BIRTHS

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 6

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	30.00
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	0.41

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES

ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES			ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES		
1936	13.2	14.8	1945	15.9	16.1
1937	15.7	14.9	1946	19.5	19.1
1938	14.9	15.1	1947	20.7	20.5
1939	15.7	15.0	1948	22.6	17.9
1940	15.0	14.6	1949	17.9	16.7
1941	15.8	14.2	1950	18.0	15.8
1942	17.6	15.8	1951	17.1	15.5
1943	18.5	16.5	1952	18.4	15.3
1944	17.7	17.6	1953	17.2	15.5
			1954	14.1	15.2

Deaths.

	MALE 70	FEMALE 98	TOTAL 168
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			11.39
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Deaths			0.91
Corrected Death Rate			10.36

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES

ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES			ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES		
1936	13.3	12.1	1945	12.9	11.4
1937	10.9	12.4	1946	13.6	11.5
1938	11.5	11.6	1947	12.7	12.0
1939	13.7	12.1	1948	12.3	10.8
1940	14.1	14.3	1949	11.0	11.7
1941	10.7	12.9	1950	11.6	11.6
1942	10.1	11.6	1951	12.3	12.5
1943	11.3	12.1	1952	11.4	11.3
1944	12.6	11.6	1953	9.9	11.4
			1954	10.4	11.3

Maternal Mortality (excluding Abortion)

From Puerperal Sepsis	—
From other Puerperal or Maternal Causes	—
Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths)	26

TABLE SHOWING NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION

1936	2	1945	57
1937	50	1946	85
1938	52	1947	117
1939	22	1948	80
1940	13	1949	96
1941	80	1950	77
1942	112	1951	39
1943	104	1952	73
1944	71	1953	81
		1954	26

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 3

Infantile Mortality Rate, i.e., deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births 15.46

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE INFANT MORTALITY RATES

	ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES			ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES	
1936	71.4	59	1945	58.8	46
1937	70.8	58	1946	56.5	43
1938	52.2	53	1947	59.6	41
1939	63.1	50	1948	46.3	34
1940	53.6	55	1949	23.1	32
1941	51.2	59	1950	26.7	29.8
1942	26.5	49	1951	33.6	29.6
1943	30.0	49	1952	35.3	27.6
1944	40.0	46	1953	16.7	26.8
			1954	15.5	25.5

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under FOUR WEEKS of age:—

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 3

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1
Cancer of all sites	6	23
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	12	25
Heart disease	25	28
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	4
Bronchitis	2	2
Pneumonia	2	1
Other respiratory diseases	—	—
Nephritis	1	4
Prostate	1	—
Congenital malformations	1	—
Road traffic accidents	5	1
Other violent	2	2
All other causes	8	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total all causes	70	98

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 29; in the previous year there were 24.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 53, compared with 68 in 1953.

Deaths from Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions were 37; there were 27 in 1953.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	10	3	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	48	—	3
Cerebro spinal meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Measles	62	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	162	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
• Totals	293	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

NUMBER OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED IN THE DISTRICT

1936	....	....	....	....	....	25	1945	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
1937	....	....	....	....	....	10	1946	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
1938	....	....	....	....	....	35	1947	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
1939	....	....	....	....	....	15	1948	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1940	....	....	....	....	....	27	1949	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1941	....	....	....	....	....	17	1950	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1942	....	....	....	....	....	9	1951	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1943	....	....	....	....	....	6	1952	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
1944	....	....	....	....	....	4	1953	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
							1954	....	....	....	....	....	....	—

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during the year 1954

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45-55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	6	2	—	2	2	1	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

The Council have powers under the above Act to arrange for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

I am glad to record that there has been no need for me to represent compulsory removal for any of the cases investigated during the year. The provision of a home help and benevolent supervision by the sanitary inspector and health visitor have proved sufficient to remedy undesirable conditions and permit the patient to remain in his or her own home with its familiar associations.

CANCER RESEARCH

The Council are co-operating with other authorities in the Liverpool Region in further statistical research sponsored by the B.E.C.C.

This is in relation to certain types of the disease and covers a wide and detailed enquiry into particular cases. The part played by your Public Health Department is to seek special information regarding the site of the dwelling and take samples of soil from the vegetable garden, fruit growing ground or other plots in selected cases.

These samples are sent to Professor Charles Evans, of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry at Bangor University for examination and classification. The investigation is under the control of Dr. Percy Stocks of Chester.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) Water.

Piped supplies of water are available in the following Parishes of the District.

PARISHES	SUPPLY
1. Ashton, Mouldsworth and Horton-cum-Peel.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s own source from Springs and Bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation.
2. Kelsall, Tarvin, Pryors Hayes, part of Bruen Stapleford, most of Duddon and Hockenhull.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s Bulk supply from Mid. & S.E. Cheshire Water Board (Eddisbury Borehole).
3. Iddenshall and Clotton Hoo-field.	do.
4. Bickley.	Tarvin R.D.C. from Liverpool Corporation, Vyrnwy Aqueduct per Mid. & S.E. Cheshire Water Board's Mains.
5. Broxton.	do.
6. Burwardsley.	do.
7. Tiverton, Tilstone Fearnall and Beeston.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s Bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation.
8. Tattenhall, Huxley and part of Newton-by-Tattenhall, part of Golborne Bellow and part of Hatton.	do.
9. Hampton, part of Edge and Macefen.	do.
10. Malpas, Cuddington, part of Chorlton, part of Wychough, part of Agden, part of Oldcastle and part of Overton.	do.
11. Tushingham (part).	do.
12. Threapwood.	do.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 13. Farndon, Churton-by-Farndon, Churton-by-Aldford and Edgerly. | Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Co. |
| 14. Part of Chorlton. | Private Estate Supply, borehole and small reservoir, Chorlton Hall. |
| 15. Part of Edge. | Private Estate supply to Edge Hall. |
| 16. Willington. | Willington Estate. |
| 17. Aldersey and Coddington. | Aldersey Estate. |
| 18. Barton, Stretton, Carden and part of Clutton. | Carden Estate. |
| 19. Harthill. | Bolesworth Estate from Tarvin R.D.C.'s mains. |
| 20. Waverton. | Chester Waterworks Co. |
| 21. Cotton Edmunds and Cotton Abbots. | Eaton Estate, Chester Waterworks Co. |
| 22. Shocklach (part). | Tarvin R.D.C. borehole and elevated tank. |
| 23. Tilston Council Houses. | Private do. |

Water Main Schemes Approved or in Preparation.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Hob Hill and Lowcross Hill, Tilston. | Crewe-by-Farndon.
Bruen Stapleford. |
| Tushingham. | Carrs Lane, Tattenhall. |
| Tilston Fearnall (Improvement). | |

Particulars of the number of premises supplied by the Council's mains at December, 1954, are as follows:—

DOMESTIC	TRADE	TOTAL
2354	779	3133

No. of Standpipes supplied from the mains:—

PARISH	NUMBER CONSUMERS	
Edge	1	35
Beeston	1	10
Hampton	3	20
Newton/Tattenhall	1	15
Oldcastle	1	2

Number of premises supplied by other Public Water Undertakings for which figures are available are as follows:—

PARISH	DOMESTIC TRADE TOTAL			UNDERTAKING
Waverton	116	15	131	Chester Waterworks Company.
Edgerly	1	—	1	Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company.
Churton-by-Aldford	50	2	52	do.
Churton-by-Farndon	27	—	27	do.
Farndon	177	4	181	do.
	<u>371</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>392</u>	

Estimated population supplied:—

By Tarvin R.D. Council	9603
By Chester Waterworks Co.	480
By Wrexham & East Denbighshire Water Co.	1046

11129

This represents approximately 76% of the total population of the District supplied by mains water. A number of consumers however are supplied by Estate Supplies, Private Systems, and boreholes, etc. The actual percentage of water consumers with supplies laid on is considerably in excess of this figure.

During the year approximately 8½ miles of water main were laid by the Council in the District, and in consequence the Council now administer approximately 110¾ miles of mains.

Water Schemes completed during the year ending December, 1954

	LIN. YARDS
Newton-by-Tattenhall	3000
Gatesheath—Rookery Tattenhall	1793
Tarvin Site	280
Cuddington—Oldcastle	773
Part of Agden	599
Edge Lane, Edge—1st section	833
Edge Lane, Edge—2nd section	1266
Bruen Stapleford	360
Hatton Heath	1366
Threapwood	1220
Duddon Site	70
Cuddington—Heath Villas	133
Hollands Lane, Kelsall	90
Springfield Avenue, Malpas	200
Tilston, Kidnal to Tilston Green	2850
Tattenhall Lanes Site	133
	<u>14966 = 8½ miles.</u>

Water Schemes in Progress

Tilston Green—Tilston School.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes in Progress

Tilston Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works. The sewer has been carried up to provide for the drainage of all council houses.

Ashton Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works. Works near-completion, sewer laid up to the full extent of the Gongar Lane Housing site.

Schemes in Preparation.

Waverton. Amended scheme to Ministry's requirements submitted to Ministry.

Kelsall. Ministry awaiting submission of Northwich Rural District Council's proposals before holding of Public Inquiry.

Tarvin. Scheme submitted to the Ministry.

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending December, 1954

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

The spate of new legislation during the year on slaughtering, slaughterhouses, housing, milk, etc., have added to the responsibilities of the Council and to the demands on the public health staff.

Progress has continued in the rehousing of families in sub-standard and overcrowded conditions and there is a definite improvement in housing conditions to be observed in the District as a whole, compared with a few years ago. There are still serious housing problems at the villages of Tarvin and Waverton, where council house building is temporarily held up. Education in cleanliness of food preparation and handling has shown good results.

Action relating to housing repairs, new drainage, food inspection and council house tenancies are dealt with in the report together with other ancillary work of your public health officers.

Decontrol of meat and the return to private slaughter created problems which have so far been overcome, and inspection has been carried out of all animals slaughtered for human consumption at the licensed slaughterhouses in various parts of the District.

I must acknowledge the team work of the staff and thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee in particular, and the Chairman and Members of the Council in general for their confidence and support.

I am fortunate in having Dr. W. J. Birchall as Medical Officer of Health. He is ever willing to give sound advice and practical assistance.

I must also record my appreciation of the co-operation freely given by the Clerk and other chief officials of the Council in the various joint problems which have arisen.

Your obedient servant,

G. T. WOODS,
M.R.SAN.I., M.I.SAN.E., M.S.I.A.

WATER

During the year regular samples were taken from every main supply of the Statutory undertakers in the District.

In addition many isolated supplies were sampled for analysis and in cases of adverse results, reports were made to your Works and Planning Committee for consideration for mains extensions where suitable.

A total of 78 water samples were taken during the year, made up of 36 samples taken from local supplies and 90 from the mains.

These were analysed at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead.

The long awaited extension of mains to the Tilston area has progressed during 1954, and the completion of this scheme will enable several doubtful local supplies to be superseded.

HOUSING

Steady progress has been maintained in the provision of improved housing conditions in the district by both the Council and private owners, but there is still much to be done and there are not yet any grounds for complacency.

The passing of The Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act during the year, created further responsibilities for the Council, with additional demands on their technical officers.

The modernising of sanitary accommodation of dwellings and reconstruction carried out with the assistance of improvement grants are dealt with elsewhere in this report.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received at the end of December, and will be dealt with in the next report.

The new standard for a fit house under Section 9 is to be used in connection with the survey required under Section 1, to be completed within one year of the passing of the Act. In my view this section is not very realistic, and because of the pressure of other work on the technical staff of the department created by new legislation, little progress has been made with the survey up to the end of the year. In the Rural Housing Survey which took three years, over 800 houses in the District were listed as sub-standard in categories 4 and 5 (Cheshire grading C and D).

A start has been made on re-inspecting and re-assessing these classes in the light of the new standard, and already on the results available at the time of reporting it can be seen that the number will be reduced by reason of (a) Demolition or Closing Orders made since the survey (b) reconstruction in the interval and (c) the new standard.

A special report will be made to the Council when the survey is completed, but unless technical staff is to be engaged specifically for the purpose of the inspection and assessment of dwellings it is certain that the survey will be incomplete at the

termination of the permitted period (August, 1955) as the normal day to day calls on the inspectors' time must still receive attention.

Overcrowding.

An accurate figure for the number of houses or families overcrowded cannot be given without carrying out a current District Survey.

It is known, however, from 192 housing applications investigated by the Department that in 1954 the overcrowding of 26 families comprising 96 persons was relieved by the provision of a council house.

It will be seen from the table of statistics that the number of formal notices requiring repairs have increased on the previous year.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health & Housing Acts)	381
(ii) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations (Housing Applications)	192
(iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	19
(iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous subhead) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	142

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered reasonably fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	102
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	1
(b) Proceedings under Section II of Housing Act, 1936.	
Number of premises on which Demolition Orders were made	8
Demolished following informal action	2
Number of premises on which Undertakings were offered by owners	6

	Number of premises on which Undertakings were accepted by the Council	6
(c)	Proceedings under Section 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953.	
	Number of premises on which Closing Orders were made	3
	Number of premises on which a Closing Order was substituted for a Demolition Order	Nil
(d)	Public Health Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4

Council House Tenancies.

The records of housing applications, and tenancies are kept by the Public Health Department who supply full reports on the housing need of each applicant after investigations by a visit to the house by one of your Sanitary Officers.

This procedure enables the local Selection Committees when framing recommendations to the Housing Committee, to have reliable reports on the state of the applicant's dwelling, any overcrowding, the type of tenant, and any confidential health grounds such as pulmonary tuberculosis, etc., of any members of the family, from the records kept by the department, and other confidential information supplied by the family doctor.

At the close of the year the Register of Applications totalled 213 comprising 54 from applicants in agricultural employment and 159 from other workers.

New council houses occupied during the year totalled 51, of which 13 were for tenants employed in agriculture. A large number of the new tenants comprised young married people with children or couples in rooms who desired a family. Twenty-six cases of overcrowding were relieved.

Total number of council houses tenanted at Dec. 31st, 1954	597
Total number of above with tenants in agriculture	192

POST WAR HOUSING

	1946-53	1954	Total
Ashton	12	—	12
Beeston	10	—	10
Nomansheath, Bickley	6	—	6
Broxton	4	—	4
Clutton	10	—	10
Coddington	4	—	4
Duddon	14	7	21
Edge	8	—	8

Farndon	44	12	56
Gatesheath	8	—	8
Huxley	4	—	4
Kelsall	44	—	44
Malpas	65	12	77
Oscroft	8	—	8
Shocklach	4	—	4
Tarvin	26	6	32
Tattenhall (Edgecroft)	8	—	8
Tattenhall	50	4	54
Tilston	20	6	26
Tiverton	8	4	12
Waverton	4	—	4
Total	361	51	412

This table is compiled from the dates at which rent commenced.

Housing of Old People.

Over the past few years the Council have made special provision for the housing of elderly couples or single persons by the provision of two bedroom bungalows on their housing sites at Malpas (14 bungalows), Tattenhall (4 bungalows) and Beeston (2 bungalows).

The primary purpose of these bungalows is to provide suitable accommodation with all modern conveniences for those older Council tenants who under-occupy a three or four bedroom council house, in order to release such a family house for a suitable applicant from the register.

When such transfers are satisfied similar suitable occupants of private houses are accommodated, and in some cases at the request of the Department the owner of a house vacated has agreed to accept a suitable new tenant from the Council's register.

Proposals are in hand for further bungalows at Malpas, Tattenhall, Tilston, Ashton and Farndon.

There is other accommodation provided for older people at the Maria Taylor Almshouses and the Cholmondeley Almshouses at Malpas. Proposals for the reconstruction and improvement of the Cholmondeley Almshouses with the help of grant aid have been approved by the Council. Improvements to the Maria Taylor Almshouses are under discussion.

Housing Acts, 1949/54. Improvement Grants.

During 1954 applications for grant were received in respect of thirty premises. Nine of these were not proceeded with after the applicant had received details of the repairs required in order to qualify for grant.

Grants totalling £2,871 were made in respect of improvements costing £5,742 to twelve houses. Two of these were owner occupied and ten houses were for letting. Suitable rents were fixed by the Council in each case.

Grant was refused in respect of two houses on which Demolition Orders were operative.

Five applicants for improvements costing £3,864 were still under consideration and details of costs of the remaining two had not been received at the close of the year.

In addition to the above, a grant for improvements costing £2,979 to twelve council houses at Sunnyside, Malpas, was approved by the Ministry.

Regulation 68a.

Housing conditions in the district are still such as to warrant the renewal of existing licences issued under Regulation 68a of the Defence Regulations to permit occupation of condemned cottages which are maintained up to a minimum standard of fitness. Three such licences were renewed during the year in respect of premises on which Demolition Orders are operative, at Oscroft, Farndon and Malpas. No new first licences are now permitted to be issued.

Squatters.

The old army camp at Beeston, which consisted of four wooden huts plus one nissen hut used as a wash-house, had been reduced to one hut at the close of the year. One wooden hut had been sold during 1954 after rehousing of the occupants.

There remains one family of 6 adults and 4 children in the remaining occupied wooden hut.

DRAINAGE

The insanitary pail closet, the origin of much fly borne faecal contamination of food, and tolerated for so long in outlying areas, is being ousted slowly but surely in favour of the W.C. with disposal by a tank of modern design followed by suitable secondary treatment. Progressive farmers are now giving more attention to the provision of modern sanitation to their workers' cottages, as being good business and the best way to retain a good worker's services.

Numerous schemes have been prepared by the Department for isolated dwellings and in addition the provision of village sewerage schemes result in occupiers on the line of sewer being anxious for advice on the re-drainage of their premises to incorporate a bath and W.C. where no such amenities previously existed. Wherever possible a system of drainage in combination is advocated to save unnecessary expense and as a further encouragement the necessary plans are prepared for the owner by your inspectors.

In theory the extension of water mains should go hand in hand with main sewerage schemes, but unfortunately while water mains produce revenue, there is no return on the cost of main drainage except a more sanitary environment and better health, and while financial resources limit sewerage schemes however pressing and desirable they may be, it may well be asked how long we can afford to be without them. It is known that there are many undesirable conditions and even cases of hardship involved in the larger villages still without a main sewer.

During the year 109 drainage schemes were deposited and approved. An increase of 30% over 1953. These involved several visits to the site by your inspectors to check levels, supervise the work and test the installations on completion.

New dwelling houses erected during the year by private enterprise, with a few exceptions have all been supplied with water closets.

The exceptions were dwellings on the line of a proposed sewer, where chemical closets were installed as a temporary measure until the proposed sewer becomes available.

There have been a number of conversions of pails to water closets and several privy middens abolished.

All council houses built during the year had water closets installed.

Rivers and Streams.

The Tarvin Rural District is in the area of the River Dee and Clwyd Catchment Board and close co-operation exists between your public health officers and the Board's officials.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE

Despite the hundreds of extra dustbins supplied by the Council and private owners which require regular emptying, the refuse collection service has been operating since 1948 with a reduced labour force by means of reorganisation of schedules and the reduction of uneconomic special salvage collections.

New post-war building by the Council and private owners forced the replacement of one man during the year, but the high cost to-day of labour, petrol, maintenance, etc., and the vast rural area to be serviced calls for constant adjustment of schedules to allow for public holidays, breakdowns and absence of men through sickness, if the service is to be maintained economically.

At the end of the year the vehicles used were two Dennis 10 cubic yard and one Austin 7 cubic yard side loading wagons, with nine men and a foreman. Arrangements were made for the regular maintenance of tips, delivery of bins, and special collections according to circumstances. The larger villages are

usually serviced by all three wagons and ten men to enable the area to be cleared on one day. Dwellings between villages are serviced after the built up areas have been cleared.

The larger tips in use are situated at Waverton, Clotton, Barton, Malpas and Bickley. There are smaller tips at Burwardsley and Tiverton.

A further large area of marsh at Clotton has been reclaimed by controlled tipping. The disused quarry at Barton is nearly filled and ready for seeding, and other marshland at Bickley is being recovered for agricultural use.

Salvage.

The following table shows details of sales of salvage which were made during the year ending March 31st, 1955, compared with those of the previous twelve months.

	1954-55	Prev. Year
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Waste Paper	106 11 10	125 14 11
Scrap Metal	— — —	17 6 10
Rags and Sacking	23 13 11	— — —
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£129 13 11	£143 1 9

Camping Sites.

No licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, have been issued by the Council during the year, in relation to sites or individual movable dwellings.

Control under the Town and Country Planning Act is in operation with respect to certain caravans brought into the District for permanent residence.

There is one site for five caravans approved under planning control.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The year has been a very busy one for the Departments' officers with materials in better supply for housing repairs; and as mentioned under the section of Housing a great deal has been done in the District by the officials of the Department in relation to improvements.

Informal requests and persuasion are used as far as possible before cases are reported to Committee for official statutory action. This explains the low number of formal notices served, as only informal action is usually necessary.

The following list gives an indication of part of your Inspectors' activities during 1954, where such are not dealt with elsewhere in this report.

Informal Notices served re housing defects	142
" " " " unsatisfactory water supply	24
" " " " defective drainage	51
" " " " dirty conditions	8
" " " " provision of dustbins	18
" " " " insanitary closets	6
" " " " foul ditches	25
" " " " leaking gutters & downspouts	4
" " " " offensive accumulations	18
" " " " Food and Drugs Act, 1938	4
" " " " rat infestations	19
" " " " defects in factories	1
" " " " Petroleum Spirit Stores	1
" " " " food premises	30
" " " " licenced premises	1
No. of written complaints received at the office	285

In addition many complaints are made verbally to the inspectors during their District work or by visits or by telephone to the inspectors' private houses. This is a practice not altogether desirable for the private life of officials.

Shops.

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Shops Act, 1950, in respect to the ventilation, lighting, temperature, and sanitary accommodation of shops in the district where labour is employed.

One case of dirty sanitary accommodation was found. The occupier was warned and the necessary work was carried out.

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

Ninety-one factories are on the register. These include eighteen non-power and seventy-three power (including eight building sites). Following inspection a written notice to remedy defects was served on one occupier. This was complied with without further action. Other cases found were dealt with by verbal caution.

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of inspections	Notices served
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	18	19	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	32	1
(3) Roadworks and Building Sites	8	8	—
Totals	91	59	1

Outworkers.

There were no outworkers on the register during 1954.

Smoke Abatement.

Observations on various commercial chimneys were carried out from time to time.

No grounds for action were reported.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in the District.

ERADICATION OF INSECT VERMIN

Ten premises were treated against vermin during the year ; six for cockroaches and four for woodlice.

A heavy infestation of woodlice (*armadillidium vulgare*) was reported in four new adjacent council houses shortly after the first tenants had moved in.

Investigations disclosed that the ground floor rooms were affected and at first suspicion turned to infested sawdust having been used to protect the new floor tiles after laying.

Extended enquiries and excavation disclosed a large tree root buried in the made up ground of one of the gardens, which proved to be the origin of the infestation. Suitable action corrected these unusual conditions.

The wet summer was responsible for a large number of complaints regarding flies and mosquitoes in buildings. Advice regarding treatment and D.D.T. solution were supplied to householders, and appropriate action taken at the source where defined.

No infestations of bedbugs or fleas were reported.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Since the operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council have been the statutory body with increased responsibilities and powers to deal with the destruction of rats and mice on all properties ; agricultural as well as non-agricultural.

The service is subject to a 50% grant under approved conditions and kept as self supporting as far as possible. The very nature of the service however creates the position that the more successfully the Council clear premises of rat infestation the less is the demand for renewed contracts from satisfied users, until re-infestation occurs.

The Council's several tips, sewers, sewerage works and other properties are regularly inspected and disinfested as found necessary.

The first of the bi-annual 10% test baiting of the Council's sewers during the year showed a negative return on all systems, which was very satisfactory. Exemption from further treatment for the year was granted by the Ministry.

The following table shows the activities of your Rodent Operative for the year ending December, 1954.

No. of visits made	2,125
No. of contracts treated (Other than Council Properties)	44
No. of Council Properties treated	43
Amount of bait laid	15,171 ozs.
Amount of poison used	526 ozs.
Number of dead rats picked up	600
Number of dead mice picked up	66
Amount of poison bait laid	10,577 ozs.
Amount of poison gas used	36 ozs.

Knacker's Yard.

A licence in respect of a Knacker's yard at Malpas was renewed. Reconstruction of the works is proposed following representations by the Department.

Schools.

The need for improvements to the sanitary accommodation at certain schools has been raised with the Education Authority.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

68 premises in the District where food is prepared, offered or exposed for sale have been frequently visited during the year. Dairy farms are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

This routine work of your inspectors is of great importance to ensure that properly clean conditions and methods are observed in preparing food for sale to the public. A number of improvements have been carried out at the several small caterers in the District who provide for hikers, cyclists and motorists visiting Tarvin Rural District.

The premises known to the Department as being engaged in the handling, preparation or the sale of food include:—

Ice Cream retailers	41
Cafes (no cooked meals)	9
Restaurants (cooked meals)	12
Licensed premises	41
Abattoirs	8
Butchers' Shops	16
Bakeries	14
Other miscellaneous (Grocers, confectioners, etc.)	38
Fried Fish Shops	4

Verbal cautions were given in cases where the condition of the premises had been allowed to deteriorate. Reconstruction of one restaurant kitchen is proposed following representations to the owners.

Milk.

The supervision of milk production is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries but random samples of milk are taken by the County Council for biological examination.

Milk distributors are registered and Dealers' and Supplementary Licences are still issued by the District Council.

No. of Registered Milk Distributors	12
No. of Dealers' Licences issued	7
No. of Supplementary Licences issued	6

Regulation 20. Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

No action was found necessary during the year in regard to the restriction on the sale of infected or suspected milk.

In 10 cases of milk borne disease contacts were excluded from milking cows or handling milk vessels.

Ice Cream.

41 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, almost all these are limited to the pre-wrapped product which is less likely to be contaminated than the loose article.

There are a few travelling retailers in the District. Frequent samples are taken by your Sanitary Officers for analysis at the laboratory, and a check is made on the standard of hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicles of retailers.

No. of samples analysed	62
No. of samples resulting in Grade 1	62
No. of samples resulting in Grade 2	—
No. of samples resulting in Grade 3	—
No. of samples resulting in Grade 4	—

Licensed Premises.

Routine visits of your inspectors are made to the licensed premises in the District to examine washing facilities and general cleanliness.

During the past few years the standard of hygiene in the licensed premises in the District has improved considerably.

Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the District during the year.

Disease of Animals Acts.

Notifications of suspected Anthrax notified during 1954	64
Notifications confirmed as Anthrax	2

Swine Fever.

Six pigs were confirmed as cases of swine fever during the year. There was an outbreak of rhinitis in September.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

The decontrol of meat in July, after very short notice in relation to the problems involved, brought private slaughterhouses again into operation.

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, coming into force in October, 1939, had not had time to operate in relation to pre-war slaughterhouses because of the outbreak of war and the consequent suspension of private slaughter.

Your Public Health Committee considered the implications and resolved on a minimum standard and conditions to be applied to premises in regard to which any application was received for a renewal of a pre-war slaughterhouse licence.

In the case of every application some reconstruction of the premises was needed, and by the end of the year eight pre-war slaughterhouses had been brought up to the required standard and were licensed.

Further applications were outstanding at the end of 1954.

The inspection of meat at eight scattered premises at various times of slaughter takes considerably more time than was necessary for the previous centralised abattoir, but this vital public health service has been given the priority of attention it deserves.

The expected report in 1955 of the Government Committee on Slaughterhouses may give some indication of the future policy in regard to private abattoirs and central slaughtering. Meat inspection is obviously involved in any decisions made.

Meat Inspection.

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year, with particulars of each class of animal found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health.

YEAR 1954.	BEASTS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	TOTAL
Numbers killed	305	1,618	4,024	2,828	3,627	12,402
Numbers inspected	305	1,618	3,869	2,828	3,627	12,247

All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses

condemned	5	216	148	35	103	507
Part carcasses	87	832	481	433	1,319	3,152
Percentage affected	30.2	64.8	16.3	16.5	39.2	29.9

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses

condemned	2	62	2	—	16	82
Part carcasses	30	310	4	—	122	466
Percentage affected	10.5	23.6	0.1	—	3.8	4.5

6 cows and one beast were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The total weight of carcase meat and offals condemned by your Food Inspectors as unfit for human consumption was 84 tons 15 cwt. 7 lbs.

Disposal of Condemned Meat.

Condemned meat after it has been cut and coloured is collected from the slaughterhouses by contractors for treatment and disposal for purposes other than human consumption.

Inspection of other Foods.

The weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots found to be unfit for human consumption was 1 cwt. 18 lbs.

Cysticercus Bovis.

4 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered during the year, 2 cases in cows and 2 in beasts.

Details were sent to the Ministry of Food in accordance with Circular M.F. 5/48.

The carcases were sent for refrigeration for 21 days as recommended by the Ministry.

Food Adulteration.

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, has been supplied by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council, in relation to the year ending December 31st, 1954.

NATURE OF SAMPLE	NUMBER OBTAINED	NUMBER ADULTERATED OR NOT UP
		TO THE RECOGNISED STANDARD OF QUALITY
Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce	1	
Gin	1	
Jelly-Table	2	
Margarine	1	
Meat Paste	2	
Milk	15	Nil.
Mustard	1	
Parrishs Chemical Food	1	
Pepper (White)	1	
Sausages (Pork)	1	
Sweets	1	
Whiskey	1	
	<hr/> 28 <hr/>	Nil.

To quote Mr. Hallard "A highly satisfactory result."

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928/36

Petroleum Stores.

The Council is responsible for conditions under which petroleum spirit or mixtures are stored in the District. Close co-operation is maintained with the County Fire Brigade who periodically inspect stores of inflammable materials under the Fire Services Act, 1948. The Council enforce the provisions of the Petroleum Act but no formal notices were served during the year.

Number of existing licences to store renewed in 1954	101
Number of new stores inspected and licensed	1
Number of transfers of licences	3
Total number of licensed stores on the register at December, 1954	102

National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 50 (Burial of the Dead).

No action was called for during 1954 under the above Section of the Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The licensing of any premises including a stall or market barrow, where pet animals are sold is a duty of this Council.

No licences under the Act have been granted during the year.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

No applications for registration under the Act were received during the year.

There are certain upholsterers in the District who repair soft furnishings, but at present they are excluded from the requirements to register.

Local Legislation.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3 (adopted August 12th, 1890).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section 1 (adopted April 5th, 1938).

Building Bye-laws, adopted November 21st, 1953.

The adoptive sections of the Cheshire County Council Act, 1953, are under consideration.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South-West Cheshire Divisional Health
Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1954

Dr. WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
(Divisional Medical Officer)

*16, White Friars,
Chester.*

Telephone : Chester 20071 (2 lines).

ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH SERVICES OF SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 1954

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Division now comprises (since 1st April, 1954) Ellesmere Port Urban District and Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts. On 1st April, Hoole Urban District ceased to be a constituent of the Division, when it was transferred to the City of Chester. The total population at 1st April, according to the Registrar General's latest figures (mid 1953) is 75,360, and the area is 97,987 acres, which is the equivalent of 0.76 persons per acre. The number of inhabited houses is approximately 21,313, and the combined rateable value approximately £494,976.

It will be seen from the statistics included in the report, that the figures for certain services show a decline compared with previous years. This is largely due to the removal of the Hoole Urban District from the services of the Division for nine months of the year 1954.

There is a decrease in mileage of both Ambulances and Sitting Case Cars. Otherwise the Service continued as usual, though with some disappointment that the building of the proposed new depot at Ellesmere Port had not commenced in 1954. It is hoped that an early start may be made, and the building completed in 1955.

There has been a marked decline in the number of hours worked by Domestic Helps, and the cost of the Service has been proportionately reduced; in both cases the figures are less than half those of the previous year.

The administration of two additional schemes has been undertaken by the Divisional Committee in common with other Divisions in the County. The distribution of Welfare Foods throughout the area was transferred from the Ministry of Food to the Local Health Authority in June. This necessitated the employment of two additional female clerks in Ellesmere Port, and the provision of more accommodation to carry out this work. Elsewhere in the scattered rural areas the Committee was able to use the voluntary services which had operated under the Ministry of Food, the clerical work involved being undertaken at the Divisional Office.

The second scheme which started in the Autumn of 1954 was the vaccination of "school leavers" with B.C.G. as a protection against the possible development of Tuberculosis in the future. In addition to the considerable clerical and recording

work involved, each school requires at least six initial visits by the Divisional Medical Officer, or the Assistant School Medical Officer, together with the Health Visitor, and two further follow up visits twelve months later.

The work is proceeding in a satisfactory manner, and it is gratifying to note the high proportion of parents who are accepting the vaccination on behalf of their children.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year shows a reduction from 625 in 1953 to 587, and is probably due to the removal of the Hoole Urban District from the list.

Notifications of other Infectious Diseases show a sharp rise in Dysentery (Sonne type) and Measles in the Ellesmere Port area, where there were epidemics of the former in the Spring and of the latter in the Autumn. There was an increase in the number of Whooping Cough cases in the Ellesmere Port and Tarvin Districts.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE DIVISIONAL HEALTH
COMMITTEE

Report for Year ended 31st December, 1954

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (Section 22) — Care of Mothers and Young Children

A. Mothers' Clinics.		NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Ante-Natal	.....	430	2,809
Post-Natal	.....	140	148
Dental:			
Pre-Natal	.....	5	6
Nursing Mothers	.....	—	—
Dentures Supplied	.....	—	—
B. Young Children's Clinics.		NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
(1) Infant Welfare—			
To 1 year	.....	835	8,773
1—5 years	.....	—	3,174
(2) Specialist—			
Ophthalmic	.....	25	85
Dental Treatment (under 5)		164	169
E.N.T. (under 5)	.....	51	66

(3) Day Nurseries—

	DAILY AVERAGE NO. ATTEND- ING	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Aged 0—2 years	15	3,717
2—5 years	29	7,192

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are given here-under.

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Eye Clinics—		
Hoole	6	7
Ellesmere Port	19	78
Totals	25	85
Number of Children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed		32
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment		12

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Welfare Centres—	0-1	1-5
Barrow	16	154
Ellesmere Port	324	3,331
Farndon	21	147
*Hoole	36	354
Huntington	24	239
Kelsall	33	292
Little Sutton	127	1,605
Malpas	15	85
Overpool	76	656
Saughall	37	448
Tarvin	14	157
Tattenhall	15	121
Upton	71	987
Ince	26	197
	835	8,773
		3,177

*Hoole Clinic transferred to the City and County of the City of Chester on 31st March, 1954.

SPECIAL COMMENTS

WELFARE CENTRES AND DAY NURSERIES

Welfare Centres.

LITTLE SUTTON—The former Day Nursery was converted to a Welfare Centre and Dental Clinic by Messrs. S. & R. Williams of Bebington for the sum of £951 0s. 0d.

18 yards of ¾" Sponge Sheeting was purchased at a cost of £40 8s. 0d. for use at the Relaxation Clinic for expectant mothers.

ELLESMERE PORT—Internal decorations were carried out by A. Palin of Northwich at a cost of £117 0s. 0d.

An Electrolux Polisher was purchased at a cost of £26 16s. 2d.

The Central Heating Boiler was considered by the County Architect's Department to be beyond repair, and was accordingly replaced.

UPRON—The rental for the hire of the Village Hall for use as a Welfare Centre was increased from 12/6d. to £1 0s. 0d. per session with effect from the 1st January, 1954.

Welfare Foods Service.

The distribution of Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, A & D tablets, and Orange Juice) was transferred from the Ministry of Food to the Local Health Authority on the 28th June, 1954.

In the Ellesmere Port area the distribution centre was transferred from the Food Office in Meadow Lane to the Child Welfare Centre in York Road. Plans were passed for the adaptation of the unused portion of the former Pram Shed at the rear of the Centre into a Welfare Foods Service Centre, and the tender of Mr. C. Salter for £385 5s. 0d. was accepted. Until the adaptation is completed, the Welfare Foods have been stored and distributed in the hall of the Welfare Centre.

In the Little Sutton area, the distribution centre at the Carlton Cafe was transferred to the Child Welfare Centre, Chester Road, Little Sutton.

In the remainder of the Divisional Area the distribution of the Welfare Foods is being carried out by the services of the W.V.S. and other voluntary persons in clinics, homes and shops, under the guidance of the Divisional Office.

The distribution of the Welfare Foods throughout the Division has operated satisfactorily, largely owing to the splendid co-operation of the voluntary persons and the members of the W.V.S., who have at all times been most helpful.

During the period 28th June, 1954, to the 31st December, 1954, 33,753 articles have been distributed by the 26 distribution centres in the Division.

The following is a Summary of the Number of Articles distributed:—

National Dried Milk	17,113 tins
Cod Liver Oil	3,497 bottles
A & D Tablets	752 packets
Orange Juice	12,373 bottles

Day Nursery, Ellesmere Port.

Attendances continued at a high level throughout the year, a daily average of 44 attending.

Although there have been epidemics of Dysentery and Measles in the district, the general health of the children and

staff was quite good, and the incidence of Infectious Disease was low.

Family meals were introduced in the Nursery, the staff eating their meals with the children at small tables, and this measure is considered a great improvement.

The Nursery was closed from Monday, the 26th July to Sunday, 8th August, for Annual Holidays.

A successful Christmas party was arranged for the children by the Matron and the staff, and each child received a present from Father Christmas. Linoleum was laid in the Milk Room and the Hall at a cost of £40 5s. 6d.

Uniforms were purchased to the sum of £29 7s. 1d.

A new electric motor was fitted to the Refrigerator at a cost of £12 10s. 0d.

STAFF. Three Nursery Students (Nurses H. Waite, M. Letman and V. Riddall) were successful at the N.N.E.B. examinations held in July and November.

Mrs. Catherall, the cook, resigned owing to ill health on the 1st October, and Mrs. L. M. Steele of Ellesmere Port was appointed cook in her place.

Mr. D. C. Davies, the Handyman, resigned on the 9th July, and Mr. W. R. Maxwell of Ellesmere Port was appointed temporary Handyman in his place.

COSTS. A Comparative Statement on the costs of Day Nurseries for the year ended 31st March, 1954, was received from the County Treasurer, and the daily cost per child during the year was as follows:—

1952/53 — 10/7d.

1953/54 — 9/9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Average cost throughout the County was:—

1952/53 — 11/3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

1953/54 — 11/7d.

(Section 23).

MIDWIVES

Number of Births (adjusted for inward and outward transfers) — 1,342 (including 31 stillbirths).

(Section 23/25).

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

Transport.

A variety of repairs were carried out to the County owned cars used by the District Nurses and Midwives.

Accommodation.

A garage was erected and an entrance drive made at the house of the Malpas District Nurse at a cost of £234 17s. 0d.

Furniture to the sum of £260 0s. 0d. was purchased for the District Nurse, Saughall.

A New Electric Cooker was installed for the Kelsall District Nurse at a cost of £16 9s. 0d.

The invaluable help of the lady members is much appreciated for their assistance in furnishing premises for District Nurse/Midwives.

(Section 26).

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Total fees paid for the period 1.1.54—31.12.54 amounted to £411 10s. 0d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A. VACCINATION.

1. Primary Vaccination—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
(1) Pre-School Children	334	336	670
(2) School Children	6	6	12
(3) Adults	8	13	21
Total	348	355	703

2. Re-Vaccination—

(1) Pre-School Children	1	—	1
(2) School Children	10	6	16
(3) Adults	33	44	77
Total	44	50	94

B. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Incomplete.

(1) Pre-School Children	77	49	126
(2) School Children	—	—	—
Total	77	49	126

Completed.

(1) Pre-School Children	469	409	878
(2) School Children	13	12	25
Total	482	421	903

Re-Immunisation.

All children	88	81	169
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C. WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

(1) Pre-School Children	100	84	184
(2) School Children	6	5	11
Total	106	89	195

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1954.

(Section 27).

AMBULANCE SERVICE

	No. of Vehicles 1	Total No. of Journeys 2	Total No. Patients carried 3	No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys included in Column 3 4	Total Mileage 5
A. Directly (Amb.)	5	3,150	7,462	608	76,957
Provided (Cars)	2	1,066	2,873	16	45,782
B. By Agency (Amb.) 5		921	921	213	8,184
(Cars) —	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Amb.)					
C. Supplementary (Amb.) —	—	—	—	—	—
W.V.S. Taxi, (Cars, etc.) —	—	35	35	—	688

It will be observed from the Table set out below that mileage performed by vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service was somewhat lower than the previous year.

	MILEAGE 1954	MILEAGE 1953
C.C.C. Ambulances	76,957	80,021
C.C.C. Cars	45,782	47,245
	<u>122,739</u>	<u>127,266</u>

A Comparative Statement on the costs of the Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st March, 1954, was received from the County Treasurer, and the cost per mile was as follows:—

	1953/54	1952/53
Ambulances	1/6d.	1/7d.
Sitting Case Cars	1/4d.	1/1d.

The average cost throughout the County was:—

	1953/54	1952/53
Ambulances	2/6¼d.	2/6d.
Sitting Case Cars	1/4½d.	1/4d.

Staff.

Two members of the Ambulance Service were awarded Safe Driving Diplomas, and one Driver was awarded a bar to his 5 year medal by the Royal Society for the prevention of Accidents.

There have again been several changes amongst the Ambulance Staff, details as follows:—

Ambulance Drivers (resigned)	2
Ambulance Drivers (appointed)	2
Ambulance Attendants (resigned)	3
Ambulance Attendants (appointed)	3

One of the part-time Ambulance Drivers resigned, and one full-time Ambulance Driver was placed on "on call" arrangements in his place.

Uniforms were purchased at a cost of £80 0s. 0d.

A transport request was received from Dr. Alexander to convey a patient from a house in Farndon, which was completely surrounded by water, to Clatterbridge Hospital. A motor launch of the Chester Boat Company was hired for this purpose, and proceeded up river, together with the Ambulance Driver and Attendant, bringing the patient to Chester and then by Ambulance to Clatterbridge Hospital.

The establishment of vehicles and personnel as fixed by the Divisional Committee and approved by the County Staffing Committee is as follows:—

Vehicles		Personnel	
Ambulances	5	Supervisor	1
Sitting Case Cars	2	Ambulance Drivers	3*
		Ambulance Attendants	4
		Sitting Case Car	
		Drivers	2
		Part Time Drivers	1
	<hr/> 7		<hr/> 11

*One Ambulance Driver performs "On Call" Duties alternate weeks with the Part Time Driver.

Civil Defence.

The old Rolls Royce Ambulance was sold for £75 0s. 0d.

In the winter of 1953 efforts were made to conduct a course of lectures on Civil Defence to members enrolled in the Ambulance Section of the Civil Defence in Ellesmere Port. After two or three lectures the course had to be abandoned because of lack of support. Further efforts were made in the Autumn of 1954 to run another course of lectures, but attendances are very small, and it is doubtful whether the course can be completed on this account.

(Section 28).

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER-CARE TUBERCULOSIS

A. No. of Cases investigated in Division:—

(1) Tuberculosis—

- (a) No. of forms C & A.C. 4 completed 59
(Primary Investigation).
- (b) No. of forms C & A.C. 22 completed 460
(Follow-up Visits).

(c) No of cases where patient has been found to have :

(a) Removed from area	20
(b) Been cured	1
(c) Recovered	2
Died	11

(2) **Other than Tuberculosis** 84

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B. Number of Cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act) Nil

C. Particulars of loans of nursing equipment — Two Adult Invalid Wheel Chairs were purchased, one new costing £8 10s. 0d.. one second-hand (new condition), costing £3 10s. 0d. A Bonaped Junior Walking Appliance costing £12 12s. 0d. was purchased for use by a child in Ellesmere Port.

Convalescence.

The sum of £155 0s. 0d. was allocated for the year ending 31st March, 1955, for convalescent treatment.

One mother and her child were sent for convalescence for two weeks, but returned after one week. Arrangements were made for another mother to have two weeks convalescence, but the mother decided she would not go.

One mother and her three children were sent to the Rehabilitation Centre, Brentwood, Marple, for a period of eight weeks.

B.C.G. Vaccination—School Leavers.

The scheme for the B.C.G. vaccination of school children between their 13th and 14th birthdays commenced early in October, and the following is a summary of the work carried out during the months of October, November and December.

No. of children offered B.C.G. vaccination	439
No. of parents who gave their consent	388
No. of parents who refused	48
No. of Consent forms not returned	3
No. of children Jelly or Mantoux positive test who did not require vaccination	83
No. of children vaccinated with BCG	257
(45 absent, 3 already had BCG)	
No. of children conversion tested	21
(1 absent)	
No. of positive	16
No. of negative	4
(1 absent)	

Statistics relating to cases of Tuberculosis on Notification Registers of District Councils in the Division

	MALES			FEMALES			TOTALS		Total Cases
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1 Cases on Register at 1.1.54	237	85	322	229	74	303	466	159	625
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year	30	3	33	26	3	29	56	6	62
3. Number of cases removed from register during year	50	5	55	38	7	45	88	12	100†
4. Cases on Register at 31.12.54	217	83	300	217	70	287	434	153	587•

* This figure is made up as follows:—

			NON- PULMONARY PULMONARY TOTAL.		
1.	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	...	226	75	301
2.	Chester R.D.C.	...	129	32	161
3.	Tarvin R.D.C.	...	79	46	125
Totals			434	153	587

† This figure includes 66 cases in the former Hoole Urban District who were removed from the Register on the 31st March, 1954, when Hoole U.D.C. was transferred to the City of Chester.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED 1954

DISTRICT		DISEASE																											
		Paratyphoid Fever																											
		Scarlet Fever																											
		Whooping Cough																											
		Poliomyelitis																											
		Measles																											
		Pneumonia																											
		Dysentery																											
		Food Poisoning																											
		Enteric or Typhoid Fever																											
		Erysipelas																											
		Meningococcal Infection																											
		Weils Disease																											
		Malaria																											
		Puerperal Pyrexia																											
Ellesmere Port U.D.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
	—	—	6	11	70	82	1*	1*	363	395	3	6	138	143	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Chester R.D.	4	—	10	5	12	18	1	—	27	30	44	1	7	3	3	3	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	27	—	—	—	
Tarvin R.D.	—	—	4	6	81	81	—	—	31	31	32	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	4	—	20	22	163	181	2	1	421	456	79	23	145	146	3	3	1	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	27	—	—	—	

* Ellesmere Port residents but diagnosed in Clatterbridge Hospital.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

There has been a decline in the number of applications for Domestic Helps and in the number of cases attended in the Divisional area. A review of the cases during the year shows that 66% of the cases attended were chronic sick including aged and infirm, and 14% were maternity cases, the remaining 20% were for various causes (including tuberculosis).

Comparative costs for the financial years 1953/54 and 1952/53 based on figures supplied by the County Treasurer:—

	FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED	FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
	31.3.53	31.3.54
Hours worked	55,852	25,019
Cost to the County Council	£6,872	£3,346
Amount collected	£1,824	£834
Gross cost per hour worked	2/5½d.	2/8d.
Amount collected per hour	73¼d.	8d.
Nett cost per hour worked	1/93¼d.	2/0d.
Average for remainder of the County:—		
Gross cost per hour worked	2/63¼d.	2/83¼d.
Amount collected per hour	8d.	9½d.
Nett cost per hour worked	1/103¼d.	1/11¼d.

Every effort was made, in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep the costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the Service.

A. Number of New Applicants	123
(of these 60 were cancelled).	
B. Number of Domestic Helps working—	
(a) Permanent	—
(b) Temporary	37
C. Number of cases attended	91
D. Special cases for report	23

Twenty-three cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year. In nine cases, debts were cancelled, six cases were referred to the Clerk of the County Council to take steps to recover the arrears, and in the remaining eight cases reduction in assessment was granted.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out two visits of inspection to Shotwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1953, and the excellent conditions of this establishment continued to maintain a high level.

DIVISIONAL OFFICE STAFF

The establishment was increased by two female clerks in June, 1954, to cover the Ellesmere Port area when the distribution of Welfare Foods became the responsibility of the County Council, and these functions were transferred from the Ministry of Food.

Two female clerks have had somewhat prolonged absences from duty owing to illness, and one was still absent at the end of the year. A "temporary" female clerk has been employed for the most of the year to cover these absences, and is still employed in this capacity.

ESTIMATES 1955/56

Estimates for the year 1955/56 were submitted, and following is a summary of the items recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates:—

	£
Welfare Centres	1,915
Day Nurseries	1,791
Midwifery	155
Health Visiting	20
Home Nursing	1,605
Vaccination & Immunisation	555
Ambulance Service	5,470
Prevention of Illness, Care & After-Care	320
Domestic Helps	3,875
Administration	4,581
Payment of County Districts for Notifications of Infectious Diseases	150
	<hr/>
	£20,437
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